

Central Intelligence Agency

OLR-040/1-84



Washington, D.C. 20505

07 MAR 1984

The Honorable John Tower  
 Chairman  
 Committee on Armed Services  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I understand that your Committee will consider the Department of Defense proposal to expand use of the polygraph at a hearing scheduled for 7 March 1984. The essential feature of the proposed expansion would permit the heads of Defense components to establish a limited, counterintelligence-scope polygraph interview as a condition of access to classified information protected within special access programs created pursuant to Executive Order 12356. These special access programs include intelligence programs, as well as research and development, and operational activities of particular sensitivity.

I wholeheartedly endorse the Defense proposal. As you know, I am required by law to protect intelligence sources and methods (50 U.S.C. §403(d)(3); 403g). It has been the experience at both CIA and NSA after over thirty years of use, that the polygraph is a uniquely effective investigative tool in developing information of security significance with respect to persons who will have access to intelligence sources and methods and other sensitive information. Its use for this purpose elsewhere in the government, however, has been limited, notwithstanding the fact that these departments and agencies often have access to exactly the same information.

The Defense Department proposes a very limited expansion, both in terms of those affected by the requirement and in terms of the effects on particular individuals. Clearly, however, it will provide more security safeguards for our most sensitive intelligence programs, involving Defense personnel, and will more effectively ensure that these programs are not penetrated by hostile intelligence agents.

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I urge, therefore, the Committee to support this initiative, and permit Defense to proceed with its implementation.

With your permission, I ask that this letter be placed in the record of the hearing on this proposal.

Sincerely,

*/s/ William J. Casey*

William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence

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OLL:SWH:rme/csh (6 March 84)

OLL 84-0940

6 MAR 1984

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence**

**FROM: Clair E. George**  
**Director, Office of Legislative Liaison**

**SUBJECT: Submission of Letter to Senate Armed Services Committee Supporting DOD Polygraph Expansion**

1. The Department of Defense (DOD) is scheduled to appear before the Senate Armed Services Committee this Wednesday, 7 March, to explain its proposal to expand the use of the polygraph within the Department. DOD has asked for whatever assistance the Agency can provide in supporting this proposed expansion of the polygraph before the Committee.

2. For this purpose, we have prepared with DOD a letter to Senator Tower (attached at Tab A) for your signature, which endorses this expanded use of the polygraph at DOD as consistent with your statutory responsibility to protect intelligence sources and methods. DOD believes that the inclusion of this letter in the Committee record on this subject will be of considerable benefit.

/s/ Clair E. George

Clair E. George

**Attachment**

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